CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a computer executable global operating system resident in each of said plurality of client computer systems, said global operating system having a user interface and a plurality of application wrappers, said application wrappers providing an interface between said global operating system and each of said plurality of software applications to filter inputs and outputs [[to]] that cause each of said plurality of applications to operate together within system requirements;

(b) providing a plurality of application data channels for the transmission of data directly between said client computer systems;

(c) creating at least one collaborative session for use by said client computer systems, said collaborative session comprising a plurality of data parameters;

(d) providing at least one central server connected in a network with said plurality of client computer systems;

(e) providing a computer executable real-time knowledge center resident on said at least one central server for tracking a plurality of collaborative session data parameters;

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(f) providing a centralized real-time data index resident on said at least one central server for storing the plurality of collaborative session data parameters;

(g) updating said centralized real-time data index; and

(h) passing said collaborative session data parameters between said real-time knowledge center and said global operating system resident in each of said client computer systems.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one security password for each of said at least one collaborative sessions; and

(b) storing said at least one security password in said centralized data index.

3. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one network address for each of said client computer systems, each of said software applications, and each of said collaborative session data parameters; and

(b) storing said network addresses in said centralized data index.

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4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a list of all software applications required for each of said at least one collaborative sessions in said centralized real-time data index;

(b) providing said list of all software applications to each of said global operating systems; and

(c) loading a corresponding one of said application wrappers corresponding to to said list of software applications;

(d) executing the software applications in said list through an interface defined by said corresponding application wrappers.

5. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a notification to each of said client computer systems when a computer user joins said at least one collaborative session; and

(b) providing a notification to each of said client computer systems when a computer user exits said at least one collaborative session.

6. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a

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plurality of users as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the step of: opening a plurality of data channels between each of said client computer systems for the transmission of audio data therebetween.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the step of: opening a plurality of data channels between each of said client computer systems for the transmission of video data therebetween

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the step of: opening a plurality of data channels between each of said client computer systems for the transmission of streaming data directly therebetween.

9. (ORIGINAL) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of: designating at least one of said plurality of computer users as an administrative user, wherein said administrative user is enabled to initiate and terminate said at least one collaborative session.

10. (CANCELED) A method for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer systems among a plurality of users as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of: providing

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a keyboard filter comprising a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions that intercepts and interprets keystrokes from a user prior to their interpretation by said plurality of software applications.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for managing the simultaneous real-time operation of a plurality of software applications among a plurality of users comprising:

(a) a plurality of client computer systems connected in a communications network having at least one central server, said client computer systems further connected by a plurality of application data channels for the transmission of data directly between said client computer systems;

(b) a global operating system resident in each client computer system comprising a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions, said global operating system having a user interface and a plurality of application wrappers, said plurality of application wrappers providing an interface between said global operating system and each of said plurality of software applications, said application wrappers further providing computer executable instructions that intercept and interpret keystrokes from a user prior to their interpretation by said plurality of software applications;

(c) at least one collaborative session created by a one of said client computers systems, said collaborative session having a plurality of data parameters;

(d) a real-time knowledge center resident on said at least one central server for tracking the plurality of collaborative session data parameters;

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(e) a centralized real-time data index for storing the plurality of collaborative session data parameters; and

(f) means for passing said collaborative session data parameters between said real-time knowledge center and said global operating system resident.

12. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said collaborative session data parameters include at least one network address for each of said computer systems, each of said software applications, and each of said collaborative session data parameters.

13. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said collaborative session data parameters include a security password required for entry into said collaborative session.

14. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein said centralized real-time data index further includes a list of applications required for said collaborative session.

15. (ORIGINAL) A system as claimed in claim 14 wherein said real-time knowledge center downloads or runs remotely any required application to said client computer systems.

16. (CANCELED) A system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a keyboard filter, said keyboard filter having a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions that intercepts and interprets keystrokes from a user prior to their interpretation by said plurality of software applications.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a system for managing the simultaneous. real-time operation of a plurality of software applications running on a plurality of client computer

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systems connected in a network having at least one central server, a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions comprising:

(a) a global operating system resident in each of said plurality of client computers, said operating system having a user interface and a plurality of application wrappers, said application wrappers providing an interface between said global operating system and each of said plurality of software applications;

(b) at least one collaborative session created by a one of said client computer systems, said collaborative session having a plurality of data parameters; and

(c) a real-time knowledge center resident on said at least one central server for tracking a plurality of collaborative session data parameters, said real-time knowledge center comprising:

(i) a centralized real-time data index for storing said plurality of collaborative session data parameters; and

(ii) means for passing said collaborative session data parameters between said real-time knowledge center and said global operating system resident in each of said client computer systems.

18. (CANCELED) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions as claimed in claim 17 further comprising: a keyboard filter that intercepts keyboard inputs to said client computer systems and interprets said keyboard inputs in accordance with the application wrappers for said collaborative session.

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